

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a soot preform, comprising a primary soot preform and a secondary soot preform, on the outer periphery of a glass rod comprising:

forming atthe primary soot preform on an outer periphery of the glass rod by a primary burner; and

forming atthe secondary soot preform by a secondary burner on an outer periphery of the primary soot preform,

wherein a diameter of the primary soot preform is set in from twice to five times of a diameter of the glass rod, and a thickness of the secondary soot preform is set in from 1.5 times to seven times of a thickness of the primary soot preform.

2. (Original) The method of forming the soot preform according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the secondary soot preform is set in two times to five times of the thickness of the primary soot preform.

3. (Original) The method of forming the soot preform according to claim 1, wherein a diameter of an opening end of the secondary burner is greater than a diameter of an opening end of the primary burner.

4. (Original) The method of forming the soot preform according to claim 3, wherein the diameter of the opening end of the secondary burner is set in from two times to five times of that of the primary burner.

5. (Original) The method of forming the soot preform according to claim 1, wherein an angle between the primary burner and the glass rod is ranged from 45 to 75 degree, and an angle between the secondary burner and the glass rod is ranged from 45 to 75 degree.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of forming the soot preform according to claim 1, wherein a distance between a center point of expanse of the glass particles formed by the primary burner and a center point of expanse of the glass particles formed by the secondary burner is one third of or greater than ~~the~~ a diameter of the soot preform ~~formed by the primary and secondary burners.~~

7. (Original) The method of forming the soot preform according to claim 1, further comprising:

stopping a supply of a raw material gas to the primary burner at a termination end of the soot preform before a supply of the raw material gas to the secondary burner is stopped.